



NEWS RELEASE

City of South Fulton Government

Department of Communications and External Affairs

Media Contact:

Gary Leftwich, Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-825-1950 (cell) - gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov

Facebook – COSF17 / Twitter – #COSFGA / Instagram – cosfga

South Fulton Offers \$450 Monthly Housing Allowance to Public Safety Staff Living in the City

(City of South Fulton, GA – January 24, 2022) – Seeking to recruit and retain qualified public safety personnel, the City of South Fulton today unveiled housing allowance providing police officers and firefighters as much as \$450 a month toward rent or mortgage payments.

A pilot version of the program – which is open to 25 people on a first-come, first-served basis – starts Feb. 1 and runs through Sept. 30, the end of the city’s fiscal year. Applications are being accepted through Friday and the program must be reapproved for funding each new fiscal year.

City officials say the allowance encourages public safety personnel to live in the community and among the resident they serve. Currently, only 27 percent of those workers reside in South Fulton, according to a program survey. About 58 percent of those living elsewhere say they are interested in relocating to the city.

“Living in the city allows our public safety staff to develop stronger ties with residents and other stakeholders,” said City Manager Tammi Saddler Jones. “It also fosters community involvement and engagement and translates into quicker response times in emergencies.”

In addition, the program allows the city to attract and keep the best public safety personnel.

“Competition for experienced and skilled public safety employees has ramped up in the last year or two,” Saddler Jones said. “This program allows us to employ the best in the field who will become even more qualified to serve our city because they live here.”

To be eligible, employees must be sworn public safety workers with a minimum of one year of service and must hold the rank of police officer II or firefighter. Recipients also must maintain a primary residence in the city.

-MORE-

Housing Allowance... Page Two

The allowance will be disbursed monthly through the city's payroll office and will be subject to state and federal income and employment taxes. Staff members who own their homes are required to provide proof of mortgage agreements and renters must show a lease or rent contract. They must use the identified properties as their primary homes.

###

About the City of South Fulton

Home to nearly 108,000 residents, the City of South Fulton is Georgia's fifth-largest city. It covers more than 85 square miles and features both urban and rural landscapes with the most undeveloped land on metro Atlanta's southern side. Incorporated on May 1, 2017, South Fulton is among Georgia's youngest and fastest-growing cities – on the rise and recognized as the place you want to be. Learn more, download our smartphone app and connect with us on social media at cityofsouthfultonga.gov.